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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Bulgaria

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SUBJECT 1. Hotels in Gara Kostenets

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Hotels in Gara Kostenets

1. Gara Kostenets, sometimes referred to as Kostenets Banya, is a resort site located a few hundred meters from the village of Kostenets (N4215 E2350). Gara Kostenets consists of approximately 300 villas which were confiscated by the Government in 1944 and which are now used by workers and employees of various Bulgarian professional unions; an estimated 25,000 people visit the resort each year. The villas, together with the two hotels of the village, furnish accommodations for approximately 6,000 visitors at a time. The tourist season is from late May to early October.
2. The hotels in Gara Kostenets are as follows:
 - a. Hotel Priroda, formerly called Chuchuliga, a second-class hotel, located in the center of the village; formerly owned by Stoyan Chorbadzhiiski who was executed by the Communists in 1944; now managed by Atanas Banchev
 - b. Hotel Balkan Turist, formerly called Edelweiss, a very expensive first-class hotel, confiscated by the Government in 1944 from the former owner, a certain Zhirov; now managed by the Balkan Turist Government Enterprise in Sofia; manager's name unknown.
3. Rooms in the Balkan Turist Hotel may be rented either at the hotel desk or through the Balkan Turist office in Sofia; the Priroda Hotel rents rooms only at the desk. Identity cards must be presented on applying for a hotel room. Villas cannot be rented because they are reserved for workers and union employees.

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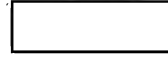
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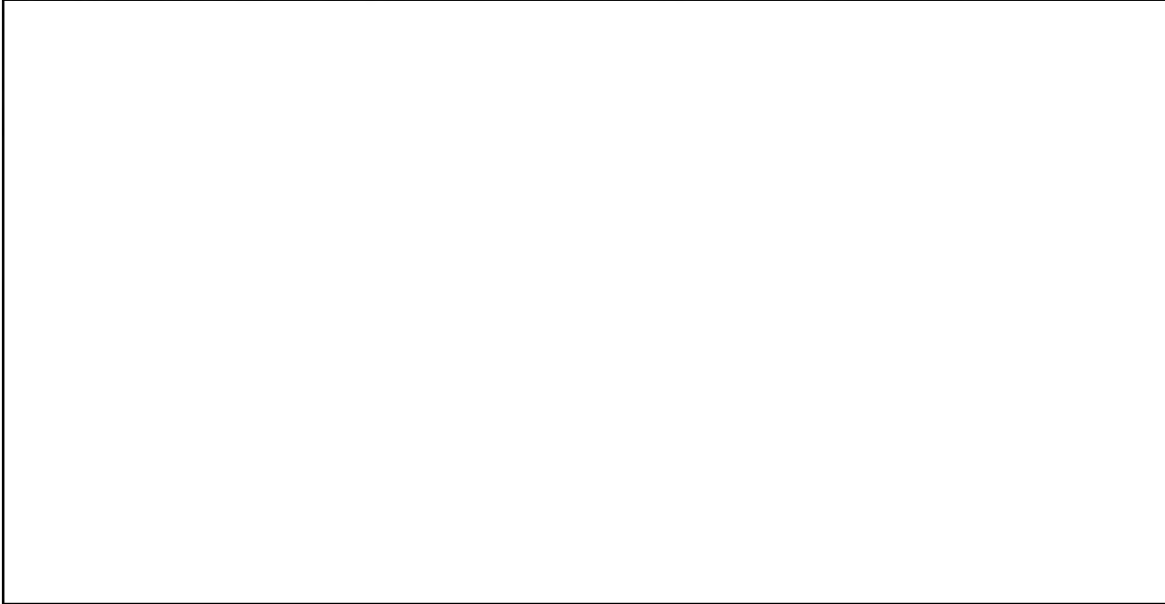
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4. Two Militia men from Ikhtiman are assigned to Gara Kostenets each summer to check the identity cards of visitors.

5. There are no hotels in the village of Kostenets.

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